

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

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P R 240800Z FEB 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 856

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 137

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0064

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD

FEB 17 - 23, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EAST AND WEST CONTINUED TO STICK TO STANDARD POSITIONS DURING THE PAST WEEK OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. IN THE WEEKLY INFORMAL AND PLENARY MEETINGS, THE EAST CHARGED THAT WESTERN POSITIONS CONFLICTED WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF "UNDIMINISHED SECURITY" AND "NO UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE". FOR THEIR PART THE ALLIES EMPHASIZED THAT THE EAST WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO ELIMINATE GROUND FORCE DISPARITIES AND COMPENSATE FOR GEOGRAPHIC ADVAN-

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TAGES. THERE WERE FEW SUBSTANTIVE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS. WESTERN

PRESS COVERAGE OF THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WAS RATHER LIGHT AND GENERALLY WELL-DISPOSED TO THE ALLIED POSITION. THE AD HOC GROUP REACHED PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ON THE DATES FOR THE SPRING RECESS. END SUMMARY.

2. FRG REP LED OFF THE FEB 18 INFORMAL MEETING BY STATING THAT THE MAJOR REASONS FOR LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS THUS FAR WERE EASTERN INSISTENCE ON CONTRACTUALIZING THE MAJOR GROUND FORCE DISPARITY IN THE AREA, THE PERSISTENT EASTERN EFFORTS TO GAIN AGREEMENT THAT NATIONAL CEILINGS SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON THE FORCES OF INDIVIDUAL WESTERN PARTICIPANTS, AND EASTERN REFUSAL TO DISCUSS THE ACTUAL FACTS OF THE EXISTING SITUATION THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF DATA. CANADIAN REP GRANDE PRESENTED THE REASONS WHY THE ALLIES BELIEVED THAT THE EAST SHOULD COMPENSATE FOR GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES BY TAKING MORE REDUCTIONS.

3. IN RESPONSE, GDR REP OESER RENEWED EASTERN CHARGES THAT THE WEST WAS DEPARTING FROM THE PRINCIPLES AGREED IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS. AS EASTERN REPS HAVE DONE IN PRIOR INFORMAL AND PLENARY MEETINGS THIS ROUND, OESER ARGUED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS EMBODIED THE PRINCIPLE OF "NO UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE" AS WELL AS THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF "UNDIMINISHED SECURITY". OESER IN THE INFORMAL, AND BULGARIAN REP DICHEV IN THIS WEEKS'S PLENARY MEETING, CLAIMED THAT THE EASTERN POSITIONS CONFORMED IN ALL RESPECTS TO THESE "AGREED PRINCIPLES", BUT THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS CONTRADICTED THEM, AND THUS WERE UNACCEPTABLE.

4. IN THE INFORMAL SESSION, POLISH REP STRULAK ALSO ATTACKED THE WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES ARGUMENT. STRULAK THEN MADE A CASE FOR THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, ASKING WESTERN REPS TO RECONSIDER THEIR NEGATIVE POSITION AND CLAIMING THAT WESTERN REFUSAL TO AGREE TO THE FREEZE PROPOSAL CAUSED DOUBTS ON THE PART OF THE EAST AS TO WHETHER THE WEST DID NOT AFTER ALL CONTEMPLATE INCREASING ITS FORCES. ALLIED REPS SAID THAT CHANGES IN FRG AND US FORCES, CITED BY EASTERN REPS, WERE NOT MANPOWER INCREASES BUT REORGANIZATION. THE ALLIES ADDED THAT

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THEY CURRENTLY DID NOT INTEND TO INCREASE THEIR FORCE TOTALS, BUT THAT THE WEST REFUSED TO CONTRACTUALIZE EXISTING DISPARITIES OR RELINQUISH THE RIGHT TO MAKE UP FOR THEM UNLESS THE EAST WAS READY TO COMMIT ITSELF TO ELIMINATING THESE DISPARITIES. THEY SAID THAT IF THE EASTERN REPS WERE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASES IN FORCE LEVELS, THE BEST WAY TO CLARIFY THESE CONCERNS WAS TO ENTER INTO DATA EXCHANGE RIGHT AWAY.

5. IN CLOSING REMARKS AT THE INFORMAL, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV ASKED ALLIED REPS TO KEEP IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INITIAL FIRST STEP AGREEMENT. KHLESTOV SAID THIS WOULD BE A STEP ON THE WAY TO SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS RATHER THAN A SUBSTITUTE FOR SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS. ALLIED REPS REPLIED THAT POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT EASTERN WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS WOULD BE ELIMINATED IF THE EAST WOULD AGREE NOW TO GIVE PRIORITY TO A FIRST REDUCTION AGREEMENT ENTAILING SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS WHICH TOOK DUE ACCOUNT OF DISPARITIES. KHLESTOV APPEARED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO REVIVE THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL AS A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION, AS FORESHADOWED BY SOME SMIRNOVSKY COMMENTS IN THE PREVIOUS INFORMAL SESSION.

6. THE BULGARIAN REP ALSO TOOK UP THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL IN HIS FEB 20 PLENARY STATEMENT, EXPRESSING SURPRISE AT THE WESTERN REJECTION OF THAT PROPOSAL SINCE IT PROVIDED THAT THE US AND USSR SHOULD BEGIN REDUCTIONS FIRST, WHILE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD CARRY OUT REDUCTIONS AFTERWARD. SPEAKING AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A FLANK STATE, DICHEV CONCLUDED THAT THE EASTERN POSITION CORRESPONDED MOST CLOSELY TO THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE FLANK STATES.

7. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW SUBSTANTIVE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST DURING THIS ROUND. HOWEVER, IN RECENT SEPARATE BILATERALS WITH ALLIED REPS, BOTH POLISH REP STRULAK AND CZECHOSLOVAK DEPUTY REP MEISNER HAVE STATED THAT THE ALLIED PROPOSAL FOR A REDEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES WAS A MOVE OF INTEREST TO THEIR COUNTRIES.

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8. THE AD HOC GROUP REACHED PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT THIS WEEK THAT THE SPRING RECESS WOULD BEGIN AFTER THE APRIL 24 PLENARY SESSION AND THAT THE FIRST PLENARY OF THE SIXTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA TALKS WOULD BE HELD ON MAY 15. SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION FROM THE EAST ON THESE DATES, THE PRESS WOULD BE INFORMED THAT THE TALKS WOULD BE IN RECESS FROM APRIL 28 UNTIL MAY 11.

9. IN THE AD HOC GROUP SESSION OF FEB 13, BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAENSSEN COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED ON THE TEAM OF ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE INFORMAL SESSIONS WITH THE EAST AS FREQUENTLY AS THE UK AND FRG REPRESENTATIVES. IT IS UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT WHETHER THIS INTERVENTION WAS PERSONAL OR THE BELGIANS ARE REVERTING TO THEIR EARLIER TROUBLEMAKING ROLE

ON THIS POINT. THE BEST COURSE FOR THE MOMENT WOULD
APPEAR TO BE NOT TO RAISE THE ISSUE OR SHOW INTEREST
IN IT SINCE THIS USUALLY HAS THE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING
THE BELGIANS TO PERSIST AND MAKE MORE OF THE MATTER.DEAN

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